

\$4,846,819,443,348.28. This debt, remember, was run up by the Congress of the United States.

The Founding Fathers decreed that the big-spending bureaucrats in the executive branch of the U.S. Government must never be able to spend even a dime unless and until authorized and appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. Constitution is quite specific about that, as every school boy is supposed to know.

So, do not be misled by politicians who falsely declare that the Federal debt was run up by some previous President or another, depending on party affiliation. These passing-the-buck declarations are false because as I said earlier, the Congress of the United States is the culprit. The Senate and the House of Representatives have been the big spenders for the better part of 50 years.

Madam President, most citizens cannot conceive of a billion of anything, let alone a trillion. It may provide a bit of perspective to bear in mind that a billion seconds ago, Mr. President, the Cuban missile crisis was in progress. A billion minutes ago, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ had occurred not long before.

Which sort of puts it in perspective, does it not, that Congress has run up this incredible Federal debt totaling 4,846 of those billions—of dollars. In other words, the Federal debt, as I said earlier, stood this morning at 4 trillion, 846 billion, 819 million, 443 thousand, 348 dollars and 28 cents. It'll be even greater at closing time today.

FRIENDS OF IRELAND ST. PATRICK'S DAY STATEMENT—1995

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, over the last year, we have witnessed truly historic progress in Northern Ireland which gives great hope that lasting peace and reconciliation are at hand.

The Friends of Ireland is a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives opposed to violence in Northern Ireland and dedicated to maintaining a United States policy that promotes a just, lasting, and peaceful settlement of the conflict that has cost more than 3,100 lives over the past quarter century.

Since 1981, the Friends of Ireland have joined together in an annual St. Patrick's Day statement which focuses on the situation in Northern Ireland. I believe that all our colleagues will find this year's statement of particular interest, and I ask unanimous consent that it may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT BY THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND, ST. PATRICK'S DAY, 1995

On this St. Patrick's Day, all friends of Ireland rejoice in the historic developments of 1994 and early 1995 that have led to a cease-fire in Northern Ireland and that offer the best hope for a negotiated and lasting

peace since the Troubles began more than a quarter century ago.

We welcome the release last month by the British and Irish Governments of the Framework Document, which provides a fair and balanced basis for all-party talks in Northern Ireland—talks we hope will begin soon. The way forward can be found only if all parties work together to find a peaceful solution that will have the support of the people of Northern Ireland.

We commend all those in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Britain, who deserve enduring credit for the achievements so far—especially John Bruton, John Major, Dick Spring, Sir Patrick Mayhew, John Hume, Gerry Adams, and Albert Reynolds.

We also commend the constructive role which President Clinton, U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith, and U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain William Crowe have played in advancing this process. The combined efforts of the Congress and the Administration played a critical role in the process which led to the IRA's historic cease-fire announcement in August 1994 and the Loyalist cease-fire declaration which followed in October. We commend both the IRA and Loyalist paramilitaries for deciding to seek a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

We support the total demilitarization of Northern Ireland. We urge the Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries to begin turning in their weapons. We are encouraged by the announcement by the British Government that it will begin to withdraw troops from Northern Ireland and we are hopeful that this process will continue.

Both the British and Irish Governments responded to the cease-fire announcements with significant steps to advance the cause of peace. The British Government opened cross-border roads, lifted the broadcast ban and exclusion orders, and removed British troops from daytime street patrols in Northern Ireland. The Irish Government established the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, released prisoners, and lifted emergency laws.

Many Unionists and their leaders have shown a willingness to consider new proposals with an open-mindedness crucial to genuine progress. This development is welcomed. We are also greatly encouraged by visits of Unionist leaders to this country. The United States is a friend of both communities and we hope Unionists will continue to visit. It is important that their voices be heard.

Recognizing that economic progress is also essential, the Friends of Ireland support measures to encourage economic development in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland damaged by the years of conflict. The cease-fire has already led to new investment that will create needed jobs.

We welcome President Clinton's support for additional private economic development as demonstrated by the appointment of George Mitchell as the President's economic envoy. We look forward to the Conference on Investment and Trade for Ireland to be held in Washington in May. The aim of the conference, according to its mandate, is "to show U.S. companies that sustained peace is dramatically improving business opportunities on the island of Ireland, and particularly Northern Ireland and the border counties." We are confident it will encourage new American investment and enhance the prospects for peace.

We support the International Fund for Ireland as an important part of the search for peace. The Fund has helped create more than 25,000 jobs in the most disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland and the border counties, and has had a major beneficial impact on the people in these areas.

We agree with the Committee on the Administration of Justice, an independent human rights organization in Northern Ireland, that "respect for and defense of human rights must be the cornerstone of any lasting settlement to the conflict." Britain should follow Ireland's lead and repeal emergency legislation with respect to Northern Ireland. There should be a thorough review of policing in Northern Ireland, with the goal of creating a police force that has the confidence of both communities. A Bill of Rights should be enacted to provide full protection for all people in Northern Ireland. Employment discrimination must be ended. We welcome advances in legislation involving fair employment; but twice as many Catholics as Protestants continue to be unemployed, and new economic initiatives are needed to address this injustice.

Finally, we are mindful that 1995 marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Irish Famine. Though the Irish had already established a strong presence in the early years of our nation, many of the 44 million Irish Americans today are descendants of victims of the Famine. As President Mary Robinson of Ireland has eloquently stated, "Irishness is not simply territorial *** emigration is not just a chronicle of sorrow and regret. It is also a powerful story of contribution and adaptation." Irish-Americans have contributed immensely to this country, while maintaining lasting ties of heritage, history, and affection for the land of our ancestors.

As Friends of Ireland on St. Patrick's Day 1995, we commit ourselves to ever closer ties with the island of Ireland and all its people. It is our hope and prayer that 1995 will bring even greater progress toward lasting peace.

FRIENDS OF IRELAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SENATE

EDWARD M. KENNEDY.
DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN.
CLAIBORNE PELL.
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEWT GINGRICH. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT. JAMES T. WALSH.

ROBERT PERRIN GRIFFIN: IN MEMORIAM

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Perrin Griffin, a good friend who passed away last year.

Bobby Griffin was a native son of South Carolina. Born in Bishopville in 1992, he served as a U.S. Senate page for our beloved former colleague, Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina, from 1937 to 1939, and as chief page for Vice President John Nance Garner of Texas. He graduated from the Citadel in 1943, 1 year after I did.

After college, Bobby joined the Army. As a soldier, he distinguished himself as a brave leader. As a patrol officer in World War II under Gen. George Patton in the 3d Army, 26th Division, Captain Griffin led his men into the first occupation of many enemy towns in Europe. In fact, he commanded his company in the first contact with German troops in the Ardennes campaign of 1944.

Madam President, Bobby Griffin was a man of enormous courage. He served our country with great distinction and